

High School Application Programs for 2019-2020 Instructions for Grade 8 Applicants

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – REVIEW ENTIRE DOCUMENT

Private school students will have a separate application link available starting on October 8, 2018.

Thank you for your interest in magnet programs! This is an exciting time for Grade 8 Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) students and parents/guardians.* In preparation for next year, while investigating the numerous opportunities available in high school, you may want to consider applying to the high school magnet programs. These programs include Science, Mathematics, Computer Science at Montgomery Blair; International Baccalaureate (IB) at Richard Montgomery; and Global Ecology, Humanities, and Science, Mathematics, Computer Science at Poolesville. (*Course requirements and residency eligibility apply for some programs, as indicated below*). The magnet programs are for highly motivated and academically accelerated students who are prepared to accept academic challenges.

If your student is interested in applying to one or more of these programs, her or his MCPS Google account must be used to complete the application. You are encouraged to carefully review the following information together. It contains detailed guidelines about the application process. Grade 8 teacher recommendations, testing, and an essay are part of the process. Applications are submitted electronically and the same application will be used for all programs. **Applications are due by Friday, November 2, 2018.** Notification results will be mailed in early February 2019. Teacher recommendations that are submitted as part of this process and may not be accessed by anyone outside of the selection committee.

Special Information Needed to Complete the Student Online Application

If you are unable to complete the application in one sitting, press SUBMIT and your entries will be saved. At any time prior to the due date, you may access your application to enter updates/edits. To retrieve it, enter the applicant's MCPS Google name and password. Complete/update the application and press SUBMIT. Your last, most recent electronic submission will be the one recorded in the application system.

Collect and prepare the required information in advance:

- Student applicant's MCPS Google user name and password.
- Name(s) of high school magnet program(s) to which student is applying.
- Student's legal name, home address and birth date.
- Parent(s)/legal guardian(s) name(s), telephone, and email information.
- Student's current middle school, home middle school, and home high school.
- MCPS Outlook email addresses for applicant's Grade 8 teachers, to be used for teacher recommendation request forms. (The staff directory will be available on the online application site for your convenience).
Required email addresses for teacher recommendation forms:
 - Montgomery Blair Magnet Program (3): Science, Math, and English
 - Richard Montgomery IB Program (5): Science, Math, English, World Studies, and World Languages
 - Poolesville Magnet Programs (4): Science, Math, English, and World Studies
- A list of up to 4 of the applicant's hobbies and interests, plus a brief description (up to 100 words) about which one is her/his favorite, and why.
- A list of up to 5 academic achievements/awards and dates, including individual/group, and local/state/national levels.
- A list of up to 6 special programs/activities/courses participated in outside the school day, including dates and locations.
- A student essay of up to 200 words, completed by the applicant, without assistance. Essay topic: *Describe yourself as you study, work, and/or interact in your favorite class or activity.*

* Montgomery County Grade 8 applicants attending a private school should follow the private school magnet application process available at: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/

What happens next?

The first time an applicant hits SUBMIT after entering her or his information on the application, the student and parent/guardian will receive an email of submitted responses. Students may continue to update their responses until the due date, Friday, November 2, 2018. Students will be able to view their responses by re-opening the Google Form. Parents will only receive a copy of the student’s first submission, an update on October 26, and a final copy the week of November 5. In between these dates, parents/guardians may review the information with their student via her or his MCPS Google account.

For applicants with an existing Individualized Education Plan (IEP), 504 Plan, or English Language Learner Plan (ELL) with testing accommodations:

Parents of applicants who currently receive special education services or testing accommodations as part of an existing IEP, 504 Plan, or ELL Plan MUST include a copy of the testing accommodations. Testing accommodations may be uploaded to the application electronically, mailed or hand-delivered to the program coordinator(s) of the program(s) to which the student is applying by **Friday, November 2, 2018**. Testing accommodations must be in place prior to testing. A program coordinator will contact the parent/guardian prior to testing.

Application Programs		
MONTGOMERY BLAIR HS	RICHARD MONTGOMERY HS	POOLESVILLE HS
<p>51 University Boulevard, East Silver Spring, MD 20901 301-649-8240</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science, Mathematics, Computer Science <p><i>* To be eligible to apply to the Blair Magnet Program, applicants:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Must reside in one of the following high school clusters: Bethesda-Chevy Chase (B-CC), Churchill, the Downcounty Consortium (DCC), the Northeast Consortium (NEC), Walter Johnson, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Sherwood, Whitman, or Wootton.</i> ➤ <i>Must be enrolled in Algebra 1 or higher.</i> 	<p>250 Richard Montgomery Drive Rockville, MD 20852 301-610-8100</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Baccalaureate (IB) <p><i>* To be eligible to apply to the IB Magnet Program, applicants:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>May reside in any MCPS high school cluster.</i> ➤ <i>Must be enrolled in: Algebra 1 or higher.</i> ➤ <i>Must be enrolled in: Level 1 or higher of a world language (or be bilingual in Chinese, French, or Spanish).</i> <p><i>Note: Invited students will be expected to take Chinese, French, or Spanish.</i></p>	<p>17501 West Willard Road Poolesville, MD 20837 240-740-2419</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Ecology • Humanities • Science, Mathematics, Computer Science <p><i>* To be eligible to apply to the Science, Mathematics, Computer Science House and or/the Humanities House, applicants:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Must reside in one of the following high school clusters: Clarksburg, Damascus, Gaithersburg, Magruder, Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley, or Watkins Mill.</i> <p><i>* To be eligible to apply to the Global Ecology House, applicants:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>May reside in any MCPS high school cluster.</i> <p><i>* To be eligible to apply to all Poolesville magnet programs, applicants:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Must be enrolled in Algebra 1 or higher.</i>
<p><i>*All eligible students who have an established bona fide residence in Montgomery County may apply. Bona fide residence is one’s principal residence, maintained in good faith, and does not include a residence established for convenience or for the purpose of free school attendance in MCPS. Residency must be established by the application deadline.</i></p>		

Application Due Date

All applications must be submitted electronically by the due date, Friday, November 2, 2018.

Upon first submission, the parent/guardian and the student will receive an email confirming the information submitted. (If you do not receive confirmation within ten minutes of submission, check your Junk mail).

NOTE: Once the application has been submitted electronically, and prior to the application deadline, the application will still be available for review/updates by logging in with the student's MCPS Google name and password, then pressing the submit button.

(Electronic submission of the application will serve as your confirmation for testing. You will NOT be contacted prior to test day. Information regarding test date, timeframe, and your designated testing site is included in this document).

Important Testing Information

- The same test will be administered for the Montgomery Blair Magnet Program, the Richard Montgomery IB Program, and the Poolesville Magnet Programs. The test assesses the knowledge and skills that are needed for success in a high school program designed for exceptionally high achieving students. It measures reasoning ability, critical thinking, and knowledge and skills students have learned over the years.
- There is NO fee for testing.
- **The application submission is confirmation that the student will attend the test. Therefore, you will NOT be contacted prior to testing. Please note the testing date, timeframe and your designated test site in this document.**
- **Testing will take place on Saturday, December 1, 2018, from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.** (Snow date: Saturday, December 8).
 - Students who are unable to test on Saturday due to religious reasons will be able to test on **Sunday, December 2, 2018**, at Richard Montgomery High School. A written request for the alternate test date must be submitted to the program coordinator by Monday, November 12. A telephone contact from the coordinator will confirm testing on the alternate date.
 - Students who have an IEP, 504 Plan, or ELL Plan with testing accommodations will be tested on **Sunday, December 2, 2018**, at Richard Montgomery High School, beginning at 8:00 a.m. (Snow date: Sunday, December 9). A program coordinator will contact you in advance regarding arrangements.
 - If an applicant is unable to get to her/his assigned testing site location on Saturday, December 2, call the magnet program(s) to which the student is applying to arrange to take the test at another location. (Blair HS: 301-649-8240; Richard Montgomery HS: 301-610-8100; Poolesville HS: 240-740-2419).
- On test day, applicants must report to their designated high school testing site between **7:30-7:45 a.m.**
- Prior to starting the test, students will be asked to sign a statement indicating they feel well enough to complete the testing session.
Note: If a student is ill on the day of testing, the parent/guardian should not bring her/him to the testing site. Instead, the parent should call the program coordinator on the next school day to reschedule testing.
- Testing should be completed around 11:00 a.m. Since there are no waiting areas, parents should plan to pick up students from the school at 11:00 a.m.

Student Information

- Be sure to rest well the night before the test and eat a good breakfast on the day of the test.
- Plan to arrive by the designated time, 7:30-7:45 a.m.
- Bring several sharpened pencils and your MCPS student ID number.
- You will **NOT** be permitted to use a calculator or calculator watch during testing.

Testing Site Information

- Students are assigned to a testing site based on their **home/base** high school. The same test will be administered at all three sites and results given to the appropriate program coordinator(s). Students who currently attend middle school magnet programs at Roberto Clemente, Eastern, or Takoma Park middle schools, a middle school other than their assigned middle school, or a private school, may visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org to locate their home/base high school cluster.

- To identify your testing site, use the following information:

Test at Montgomery Blair HS if your home/base high school is:

Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Montgomery Blair, James Hubert Blake, Albert Einstein, John F. Kennedy, Northwood, Paint Branch, Sherwood, Springbrook, Wheaton

Test at Richard Montgomery HS if your home/base high school is:

Winston Churchill, Gaithersburg, Walter Johnson, Col. Zadok Magruder, Richard Montgomery, Rockville, Thomas S. Wootton, Walt Whitman

Test at Poolesville HS if your home/base high school is:

Clarksburg, Damascus, Northwest, Poolesville, Quince Orchard, Seneca Valley, Watkins Mill

- Any student who needs to change their December 1st testing location should contact one of the three program coordinators in advance to request a change.
- Due to limited weekend transportation in the Poolesville area, students who are testing at Poolesville HS may access MCPS bus transportation the morning of the test from the following high schools: Clarksburg, Gaithersburg, Col. Zadok Magruder, Seneca Valley, or Watkins Mill. To confirm your seat on the bus, contact the Poolesville Program Coordinator (240) 740-2419.

High School Online Application for Current MCPS Grade 8 Students Only:

<https://goo.gl/forms/0XjQaKSxI5BtYWBm2>

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